

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for operating a personal digital assistant having an input means, a file storage means, a data base, a search engine means; a display means, and an electronic communication means, comprising the steps of:

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storing in the data base one or more records of names and relatable calling numbers;

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choosing a directory from the data base to display searchable data contained in the records;

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inputting a search key relatable to a datum element in one or more records;

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comparing the search key to the data elements in the files and displaying in said directory one or more records in which the datum element matches the search key;

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selecting a record from said directory in accordance with the location of an indicator on a display, denoted by at least one of a cursor, a pointing device or a contact and a selection frame in the display;

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utilizing information in the selected record to initiate one of a plurality of forms of electronic communication to a selected recipient.

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2. The method as described in claim 1, wherein comparing the search key comprises the steps of:

5 inputting a search key representing the alphanumeric string to be searched;

setting a first variable to the number of records to be checked;

10 setting a first index to one to keep account of the records checked;

15 setting a second variable to the alphanumeric string to be searched;

20 setting a third variable to TRUE if the record has been checked otherwise setting the third variable to FALSE, and if the third variable is FALSE then reading the second variable from the record;

25 comparing the condition whether the search key matches the second variable stored in the record, and if it is determined that the search key matches the second variable, then, the record is displayed; and

30 incrementing the first and determining whether the first index equals the first variable number of records to be checked and if the first index does not equal the first variable, then the search process repeats until all records matching the search key are displayed.

35 3. A method for operating a personal digital assistant having an input means, a file storage means, a data base, a search engine means; a display means, and an

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a directory relatable to said records;

a search engine to search the data base and  
compare the records to the search key;

a display for showing the directory of said records that compare to the search key;

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10. The personal digital assistant device as in Claim 6, wherein the input means is comprised of a voice recognition means.

11. The personal digital assistant device as in Claim 6 wherein the recipient electronic communications descriptors include at least one of a telephone number, a facsimile number, an E-mail address, a paging address,  
5 and an Internet IP address.

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